



September 12, 2018
BCE File: 18124

Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner
Town of Cape Elizabeth
320 Ocean House Road
P.O. Box 6260
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107

RE: Pollack Brook Trail – Resource Protection Permit Review

Dear Maureen:

We have received and reviewed a September 6, 2018 submission package for the subject project from Matthew Sturgis at the Town of Cape Elizabeth. The package included project drawings dated July 19, 2018 from Sebago Technics Inc., a September 2016 Pre-Design and Planning study from Sebago Technics, Inc., a copy of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) Permit By Rule application dated July 20, 2018, a Wetlands Report dated February 24, 2016 from Sebago Technics, Inc., and other supporting documentation related to the construction of the proposed boardwalk and pedestrian bridge. Based on our review of the submitted material and the project's conformance with the technical requirements of Section 19-8-3, Resource Protection Performance Standards, we offer the following comments:

1. The Town of Cape Elizabeth is requesting a Resource Protection Permit to replace an existing pedestrian bridge with a new bridge (4' wide by 70' long) spanning Pollack Brook, and installing a new 4' wide by 8' long (32 sf) boardwalk across RP2 wetlands as part of a new rustic trail extension near Spurwink Ave. westerly to the Spurwink River. An existing trail currently extends for approximately 450' and a proposed trail will extend another 2,050' to the Spurwink River.
2. We understand that the Board will be conducting a completeness review for this project at their upcoming meeting. In our opinion, the submitted materials represent a completed package and the remainder of our comments are provided to facilitate the review process.
3. The applicant has provided topographic plans with 2' contour elevations. The permit standards require 1' contours within wetland areas. Though an official waiver was not requested, we would support a waiver since the existing drainage patterns will not be altered with the proposed improvements.
4. The proposed boardwalk and pedestrian bridge will only disturb the ground where the supports are located and will allow for the free flow of stormwater underneath.

Therefore, we support the waiver request from the required stormwater runoff plan due to the minimal impact required for installation.

5. The applicant has stated that the proposed project is not within the floodplain. A floodplain map was provided showing that the topographic elevation 9' is the top of the floodplain zone. We agree, based on the plans provided, that the new pedestrian bridge is located out of the floodplain. After discussion with the applicant, however, it was agreed that there will be some benefit in relocating the boardwalk a small distance to the east to maximize the height the proposed boardwalk will be above the floodplain. This modification may increase the square footage of wetlands disturbance depending on the crossing location chosen.
6. Permitting through the MDEP is required for this project. The applicant should contact the MDEP to ensure that all necessary permits have been obtained prior to construction.

We trust that the above comments will assist the Board during their review of the project. Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any questions or comments regarding our review.

Sincerely,
BLAIS CIVIL ENGINEERS



Todd J. Gammon, P.E.

cc: Matthew Sturgis, CE Town Manager
Bob Malley, CE Public Works Director